

IN THE CLAIMS

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1-33 (Cancelled)

34 (New). A method for isolating and identifying polypeptides capable of binding to the death domain motif of a regulatory protein containing a death domain, comprising:

assaying polypeptides to be tested, for binding to the death domain motif of a said regulatory protein; and

isolating and identifying any polypeptide that binds to said motif.

A) 35 (New). A method in accordance with claim 34, wherein said assaying step comprises applying the procedure of affinity chromatography in which said death domain motif is attached to an affinity chromatography matrix, and bringing said attached motif into contact with a cell extract; and wherein said isolating and identifying step comprises eluting, isolating and analyzing any polypeptides from the cell extract which bind to said attached motif.

36 (New). A method in accordance with claim 34, wherein said assaying step comprises applying the yeast two-hybrid procedure in which a sequence encoding the said death domain motif of a said regulatory protein is carried by one hybrid vector and a sequence from a cDNA or genomic DNA library is carried by the second hybrid vector, the vectors then being used to transform yeast host cells; and wherein

said isolating and identifying step comprises isolating the positive transformed cells, followed by extraction of said second hybrid vector to obtain a sequence encoding a protein which binds to said death domain motif.

37 (New). A method in accordance with claim 34, wherein said regulatory protein containing a death domain is selected from the group consisting of TNF-R, FAS-R, NGF-R, MORT-1, RIP, TRADD and ankyrin 1.

38 (New). A method in accordance with claim 37, wherein said regulatory protein is NGF-R, MORT-1 or ankyrin 1.

39 (New). A method in accordance with claim 38, wherein said regulatory protein is NGF-R.

40 (New). A method in accordance with claim 34 for isolating, identifying and producing said polypeptides capable of binding to a death domain motif, further including the step of producing any polypeptide identified in said isolating and identifying step.

41 (New). A method in accordance with claim 40, wherein said producing step comprises producing said polypeptide by recombinant DNA procedure in which a eukaryotic or prokaryotic host cell is transformed by a eukaryotic or prokaryotic vector containing the sequence of said polypeptide.

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